

the chronicle

Primary school's pupils prove they are a class act

– see page 2



Former Round Oak steelworkers share memories

– see page 4



Council takes 300 dogs off Dudley streets

– see page 6



MP adding support to baby group

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James visited a support group for mothers of premature babies to learn more about what they do.

Last Saturday she attended the Dudley Bliss Family Group's Christmas Party.

The celebrations involved making personalised Christmas cards, meeting Father Christmas and sending gifts to the poorly babies and their families on the Neonatal Unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

The Bliss Family Group has been running for 20 months and gives Dudley families, who have had a poorly or premature baby on a neonatal unit, to come together for mutual support and to join in with fun activities.

It is the only one of its kind in the Black Country and is run by four parent volunteers who have also experienced the work on a neonatal unit.

Bank manager's race for funds

A HALESOWEN bank manager, who has suffered from asthma since childhood, has raised almost £1,500 for a charity which helps those with the condition after taking part in the New York marathon.

Rob Smith, aged 32, who lives in Halesowen and is a relationship manager for NatWest Private Banking in Birmingham.

He said: "I know the money I have raised will make a real difference in helping people like me."

Open day about college courses

STUDENTS can tour Stourbridge College at an open event next month.

There will be chance to learn more about courses on offer and to chat to tutors. The event will run 10am to 1pm on January 29. For information log on to www.stourbridge.ac.uk

Village names the day for fair

THE next Kinver Country Fayre will be held on June 19 after it was shelved this year while long-running roadworks took place on the High Street.

There will be entertainment such as Morris dancing to entertain members of the public. Visit www.kinvercountryfayre.co.uk for more information.

Holly's card is winner

APTLY named Holly Goldingay has won the contest to design Halesowen College's corporate Christmas card.

Holly, a graphic design student at the college, put her creative typographic skills to the test to come up with the winning card.

All first and second year graphics students took part in the contest and worked to a brief.

Gillian Dunkerley, graphic design course leader at the college, said: "Designing the card has become a bit of a tradition for us."

"We launch the contest as the decorations and the Christmas music hits the shops and it puts everyone in a seasonal mood."

"All the students rose to the challenge and the technical requirements were just like a real life creative job."

The 18-year-old former pupil of Windsor High School is planning to continue her graphic design studies at university.



Graphic design student Holly Goldingay with her winning Christmas card design

Hit-and-run mother, 46 fined £420 by court

A MOTHER of one who knocked down a boy on a zebra crossing has been fined a total of £420 and given six points on her driving licence.

The boy had rolled on to the bonnet before hitting the ground suffering a broken nose, cuts and bruises and a swollen knee, magistrates heard. But the driver failed to stop to check his welfare, the court was told.

Carol Clulow, aged 46, of Chingford Close, Wordsley, admitted failing to stop following an accident and driving without due care and attention.

She was fined £220 for failing to stop and £100 for driving without due care and attention. She was also ordered to pay £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Dudley Magistrates Court was told last Friday the 13-year-old boy, who cannot be identified, was using a crossing in Bromley Lane, Kingswinford, at around 5.15pm on December 10 when the collision occurred.

Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, said: "Witnesses say the car initially stopped and pulled to the side of the road."

It appears the defendant saw the boy get to his feet and walk to the other side of the road.

She drove away and did not check on the welfare of the boy."

Mrs Jodie Smith, defending, said Clulow had "panicked".

She had intended to go to the police station but wanted to go home and speak to her husband about it first, the court heard.

DEATH TRAP ROAD CAMPAIGN BOOST

A CAMPAIGN for a crossing on a "death trap" dual carriageway in Halesowen has been boosted after a council vowed to consider the issue.

Dudley Council transport chiefs will review safety measures along the A456 in Hayley Green.

It was dubbed the second most dangerous road in Britain in a TV documentary. About 500 signatures have been collected on a petition demanding help for residents who struggle to cross the busy road.

There are fears someone could be killed after a 91-year-old man was hit by a car at the blackspot a month ago suffering a broken arm. Councillors have said that pedestrians "take their lives in their hands" there.

But now the council has said it will include the site for

consideration in the 2011/12 road safety improvement programme.

Campaigners are aiming to collect more than 3,000 signatures on a petition, so the issue can be discussed at Dudley Council chambers.

About 150 have been gathered in the last week, and leaflets have been distributed to homes in the area.

School

Councillor Hazel Turner said parents and their children find it almost impossible to cross the road, which gained notoriety on an ITV Tonight documentary.

There have been a number of near misses and some claim drivers often break the 40mph speed limit, leaving pedestrians struggling to get across the road in time. Families have to cross the carriageway to reach Lutley Primary School.

Walks to welcome the new year

WALKERS can get the new year off on the right track with a series of strolls at nature reserves in Dudley.

On January 2 people can join the warden for a brisk walk around Saltwells Local Nature Reserve.

From 10am to noon the walk will include a

trek to the top of Nether-ton Hill and beyond.

A second new year walk takes place at Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve on January 5, from 10am to noon.

Caverns

The warden will take visitors to see the

progress on work to the Seven Sisters Caverns, which are on show to the public for the first time in over five years.

In Halesowen, at The Leasowes on January 8 from 10am to noon, the warden will guide visitors around the site and talk about its history and wildlife.

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That's sum achievement in maths test

Hark the new-look worship

THE Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Dudley is set to host its first Christmas Day service in its new premises.

Having moved from their former base at Himley Road, the church is now renting the Old Meeting House, in Wolverhampton Street.

The service from 11am until 1pm on Saturday will be lead by Deacon Hubert Smiley, who has worked in the church since the 1950s.

Everyone is welcome and car parking will be available at the site.

Christmas gifts will also be given to all of the children in the congregation.

For more information contact Mr Smiley on 01384 213803 or 07868 288310.

Invitation to have a say

HALESOWEN South
neighbourhood team is
inviting townsfolk to
have their say at the last
meeting of 2010.

The Police and Community Together (PACT) session is at 7pm on Thursday December 30, at Manor Way Primary School, Brier Mill Road.

Officers will be on hand to discuss the latest policing issues and to inform residents what they are doing to address them.

For those unable to attend but who would like to raise an issue, email details to dy.nhp.halesowen@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk or call 0345 113 5000 and ask for extension 7903 6450.

They're a
class act

PEDMORE C of E Primary School celebrated top marks as pupils achieved 100 per cent in maths and English at level four in national league tables for 11-year-olds.

Head Bev Hartland Smith said everyone was delighted as the school was number one in Dudley borough of those taking the SATs test.

"We are very proud of all the children who have made such good progress," she said.

"At Pedmore it is not just about tests, it is about the children's development as people like looking out for and respecting each other and caring for everyone and everything around them."

Thirty-two pupils took SATs this year at the school in Hagley Road, Pedmore.

DUDLEY pupils are performing well in the key subjects of maths and English, according to figures released last week.

Teacher assessments for students aged 11 were carried out in all 84 borough primary schools.

It follows a boycott of the official Sats tests by some schools which means the borough does not feature in this year's national league tables.

In English, 82 per cent of pupils achieved level four, the national expectation for 11-year-olds, which is up one per cent on last year, according to the teacher assessments.

The figure for pupils achieving a level four in their maths was 82 per cent, the same as last year.

Effort

Pupils achieving level five in English was 34 per cent, an increase of four per cent on last year, and 35 per cent for maths, the same as last year.

Pedmore CE Primary achieved 100 per cent in both English and maths at level four, St Mary's CE Primary in Kingswinford achieved 100 per cent in English and 97 per cent in maths, while Our Lady and St Kenelm RC School in Halesowen, achieved 100 per cent in English.

Councillor Liz Walker, Dudley cabinet member for children's services, said: "Congratulations to all pupils, parents and teachers for their continued commitment and effort."



Headteacher Bev Hartland Smith and Year 6 youngsters at Pedmore C of E Primary School, in Hagley Road, Pedmore, celebrate their success

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
Alder Cocoon Primary School	60	80%	80%	87%	75%	85%	7	0.6%
Amblecote Primary School	30	73%	92%	73%	86%	70%	11	5.1%
Aspley Dale Primary School	41	90%	87%	80%	88%	80%	8	1.1%
Baker Vase Primary School	52	88%	92%	87%	87%	81%	8	1.0%
Blainford Mere Primary School	33	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	1.8%
Blowers Green Primary School	60	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	3.4%
Bonfield Primary School Bliston	66	77%	89%	71%	76%	62%	16	3.9%
Brierley Hill Primary School	16	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	2.0%
Brookmore Primary School	45	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	2.6%
Brookfields Primary School	51	81%	94%	58%	65%	55%	24	2.4%
The Broomley-Pensnett Primary	41	63%	77%	61%	85%	49%	25	4.9%
Brook Primary School S'bridge	34	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	1.7%
Caston Primary School H'woven	23	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	6.0%
Christ Church CofE Primary	63	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	2.7%
Church of Ascension K'winton	33	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0.0%
St Edmund & St John, Dudley	31	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	4.8%
Cotter Lane, Halesowen	54	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	3.3%
Cotwall End, Dudley	61	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	2.3%
Cradley CofE, Halesowen	27	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	2.8%
Cresley Lane, Kingswinford	29	69%	72%	72%	59%	62%	n/a	0.0%
Dawley Brook, Kingswinford	35	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0.0%
Dingle Community, K'winton	37	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	2.1%
Durley Wood, Dudley	50	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	4.2%
Fairfields Primary School	34	82%	76%	79%	85%	71%	9	0.4%
Fovcetts Primary, Trinton	43	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	1.9%
Gap Mill Primary, Stourbridge	74	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	3.3%
Ginnia Primary, Kingswinford	58	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0.0%
Greenfield Primary, S'bridge	39	92%	90%	92%	90%	90%	4	0.4%
Halesowen CofE	18	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	4.7%
Han Dingle, Stourbridge	50	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0.3%
Hastbury CofE, Halesowen	30	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	3.9%
Hawthorn Primary, Brierley Hill	35	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	1.1%
Hot Green, Stourbridge	45	76%	83%	69%	88%	62%	17	1.9%
Howley Grange, Halesowen	63	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0.8%
Huntrenton Primary, Halesowen	49	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	3.5%
Hurst Green, Halesowen	60	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0.6%
Hurst Hill Primary, Bliston	62	74%	75%	69%	75%	58%	21	4.7%
Jessons CofE, Dudley	68	69%	88%	81%	95%	65%	14	2.5%
Kate's Hill Community, Dudley	45	76%	96%	67%	73%	64%	15	1.7%
Lapal Primary, Halesowen	45	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	1.5%
Lotus Primary, Halesowen	55	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0.4%
Maidenbridge, Kingswinford	29	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	1.1%
Minor Vase Primary, Halesowen	60	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0.6%
Mixing Bank Primary, Dudley	60	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0.8%
Mount Pleasant, Brierley Hill	45	80%	96%	91%	93%	87%	6	1.4%
Netherbrook Primary School	51	59%	71%	76%	81%	57%	23	2.0%
Netherton CofE, Dudley	29	72%	79%	62%	66%	62%	19	3.6%
Norfolk Park, Halesowen	56	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	1.6%
Northfield Road, Dudley	59	69%	88%	64%	74%	55%	22	2.6%
Owl Lady CofE, Stourbridge	57	93%	89%	96%	96%	91%	3	0.6%
Olive Hill, Halesowen	61	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	3.5%
Our Lady & St Keneil, H'woven	32	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0.6%
Pedmore C.E. Stourbridge	32	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	1	0.0%
Peters Hill, Brierley Hill	118	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	2.6%
Priory Primary, Stourbridge	64	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	1.9%
Quarry Bank, Brierley Hill	54	84%	81%	63%	80%	59%	20	3.6%
Queen Victoria, Dudley	79	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	4.1%
Red Hill, Dudley	56	78%	98%	68%	78%	66%	13	4.5%
The Robes Primary, S'bridge	31	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0.0%
Roberts Primary, Dudley	81	88%	90%	72%	76%	70%	10	1.9%
Rufford Primary, Stourbridge	40	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0.5%
Russells Hall Primary, Dudley	41	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	4.7%
St Chad's, Dudley	29	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0.6%
St James's, Stourbridge	52	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	1.5%
St Joseph's, Dudley	40	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	1.0%
St Joseph's, Stourbridge	31	94%	87%	100%	100%	94%	2	0.0%
St Mark's, Brierley Hill	30	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	1.8%
St Mary's, Kingswinford	30	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	1.4%
St Mary's, Brierley Hill	22	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	5.0%
Siedmere Primary,Dudley	48	73%	85%	79%	89%	69%	12	1.9%
Sraffa Primary, Dudley	45	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	0.4%
Tenfieldes Primary, Halesowen	30	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	1.2%
Thorns Primary, Brierley Hill	26	58%	90%	54%	73%	38%	27	5.0%
Wallbrook Primary, Bliston	49	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	6.7%
Willmott, Brierley Hill	49	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	1.8%
Wollescote Primary, Stourbridge	48	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	2.8%
Woodside Community, Dudley	42	-	-	-	-	-	n/a	2.4%
Woolfenden Primary, West Bromwich	65	69%	71%	66%	92%	49%	2	0.0%

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We've prepared for hard times – council bosses

DUDLEY Council's leaders have insisted they will cope with the loss of more than £18million in government grants over the next two years.

The cuts announced by the government last week have been anticipated since the coalition took over in May. The council's £279m revenue budget will fall to £269.6m next year and £258m in 2012/13 as council tax freezes are also imposed.

Council leader Councillor Anne Millward said the £18m her authority was going to lose was in line with what bosses had prepared for.

"We have been carrying out detailed planning over the last few months as we awaited the settlement," she said.

"Clearly there are going to be difficult decisions to make, but I can assure residents and council staff we will do all we can to reduce impacts on jobs and services.

"We will now look to finalise our budget which will go before a meeting of the cabinet in January." Cabinet member for finance Councillor David Blood added: "We are now finalising our budget plans which will look to ensure we can continue to deliver frontline services to residents."

"Over recent months we have been looking at a number of ways of making efficiency savings."

The council has already been drawing up budget savings of £65m by 2015 and residents are currently being consulted on where the axe should fall.

So far it has only confirmed that there will be significant job losses among the 15,000 staff but bosses have been waiting until today's announcement before unveiling specific plans.

The budget, detailing proposals for 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14,

will go before a special meeting of the council's cabinet on January 12 before going to the full council on March 7 for a final vote.

In Sandwell, budgets will fall from £353m to £313m which includes a £35m cut in government grants over the next two years.

Finance boss Councillor Steve Eling, said the cuts were "disgraceful" and the borough faced very difficult choices. He said savings made in management costs and other areas such as reducing energy costs would be made, but would not be enough to plug the gap.

He added: "It will make a fair sized dent, but we are not going to be able to find all this money to fill that gap, something is going to give."

He added that the authority was still looking at making 700 job cuts in the next year and would be looking at achieving many of those through voluntary redundancies.

Toughest

Councillor Ray Nock, leader of the Conservative opposition group in Sandwell, said: "We've got to think smart to protect frontline services. We can't just make willy nilly redundancies."

The following year, the budget will reduce by another £11m.

Announcing the plans, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said the cuts were not as bad as people had been led to believe.

He said: "The reality is that despite the toughest economic circumstances in recent memory, the Coalition Government will ensure that next year the average reduction in councils' spending power will be 4.4 per cent."

"By adopting an intelligent and fair approach to the way funding is allocated we have been able to ensure those parts of the country that are most reliant on central

Students protest over allowances cut



Dudley College students protest at the Broadway campus against the maintenance allowance cuts

HUNDREDS of students protested against proposed cuts outside Dudley College.

About 300 waved placards at a peaceful protest featuring speeches from student mentor Steadman Green and Dudley North MP Ian Austin outside the campus in The Broadway last week.

Students organised the demonstration against Government plans to axe the Education Maintenance Allowance which gives up to £30 a week to students for attending classes.

Among the protesters were public services students Charlie Edge, 18, of Coseley, and Vikki Fox, 20, of Netherton. Charlie said: "The money gives normal people the chance to come to college and so our families do not have to find the money. If we did not have it we would not have been able to come to college."

Mr Austin held a question-and-answer session with some students afterwards. He said: "The EMA makes such a huge difference to their family's finances."

Mr Green, aged 34, one of the organisers of the protest at the college, off The Broadway said: "The money acts as a lifeline for these people and I think that it is short-sighted by the Government because education is so important and these people are the future."

College principal Lowell Williams said: "EMA put a value on education particularly for young people and by taking it away it takes away the value."

"This was a peaceful protest run by students for the students and it is an excellent, positive way of getting involved in something what they all seem to feel passionate about."

Mr Austin held a question-and-answer session with some students afterwards. He said: "The EMA makes such a huge difference to their family's finances."

sizes and increasing one-to-one sessions. The extra money – worth £625 million in 2011/12 – is designed to improve results among the poorest children who are eligible for free school meals.

In addition, the basic school funding allocation per pupil – which does not include the pupil premium or capital funding for building projects, is staying the same. This means that in 2011/12 Dudley will get £4,895 per pupil and Sandwell, £5,314.



Chairman of Blackheath Organ, Keyboard and Musical Society Malcolm Jones

Music society keen to recruit

BLACKHEATH Organ, Keyboard and Musical Society is on the lookout for new members.

The club invites members to listen, learn and perform with the organ and keyboards, and is hoping to expand its membership to include more young people.

Malcolm Jones, spokesman for the club said: "We are looking for new members, whether they want to come along to learn, play, or just listen. We have 15 members at the moment, from all over

the West Midlands and are hoping to get some younger people involved."

"We have had a few more musicians get in contact recently, which is really positive and we want to build on that."

The society, which holds regular meetings, recitals, and charity shows meets on the second Monday of every month at Rowley Regis Conservative Club in Hawn Lane. Meetings start at 7.30pm.

Anyone that would like more details should call Malcolm on 0121 4397260.

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Former staff from the Round Oak Steelworks are seen during a reunion event at Dudley Museum



The steelworks seen when it was still in operation and, right, an aerial view of the site in 1988

Furnace of friendship



Ex-workers, brothers Ron and Ken Walters, seen with artwork on display



Barry Thompson, Richard Wandless, Brendan Hawthorne and Steve Field

IT ONCE employed thousands of workers and the red glow of its hot furnaces would light up the Black Country sky at night as sparks, ash and the hiss of cooling metal filled the air.

Generations of Brierley Hill families had laboured in the open hearths at the landmark Round Oak steelworks since it began production in 1857 at the height of the Industrial Revolution.

When the famous furnaces closed in December 1982, it caused upset, anger and widespread unemployment.

Now, 28 years later, it has been replaced with smart glass-fronted offices and restaurants on the Waterfront complex and nearby farmland has been transformed into a busy modern shopping centre, bringing jobs back to the town.

But memories of years spent labouring at one of the Black Country's most famous steelworks came flooding back at a reunion for former workers, who still hold it dearly in their hearts.

More than 100 workers got together to remember the old

days at a reunion at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery earlier this month.

And it wasn't long before old friends starting reminiscing about what it was like working at the plant, which they fondly called the Old Lady.

The steelworks were a family affair for brothers Ken and Ron Walters, aged 66 and 63, who had both followed in the footsteps of their father David, a ladleman, who worked at the site for more than 40 years.

The pair spent their days in the open hearth, with Ken, of Gorsty Avenue, working for 12 years at the site while Ron, of Penton Street was there a decade.

"My father started work there when he was 15 almost by accident," Ron said.

"Because my father worked there, me and my brothers David and Ken went there too. It was a great place to work, you really felt part of something big."

"Round Oak closing had



Trevor Potter, Wally Fletcher, Len Jones, Tom Gray, Ernie Allen, Dennis Horton, in 1961

such huge impact on Brierley Hill. It was the heart and soul of the town and when it closed it left behind a ghost town, which has never fully recovered," said Ron.

When Round Oak closed many workers struggled to find jobs elsewhere and as a last resort some opted to seek positions at steelworks overseas.

Friends John Bagley, aged 66, of Stourbridge, Edwards Mattocks, 73, and Peter Taylor, 67, both of Brierley Hill, went abroad to find work after the site closed.

"We all went around the world to find jobs, because there wasn't any work in this

country," said Mr Bagley, who spent 20 years at Round Oak before spells working in Italy, Spain and Iceland.

"We were very sad when Round Oak closed. It was more than just a steelworks, it was a way of life."

"Men started work there when they 15 and stayed there until they retired."

"We used to call Round Oak the Old Lady and treated her with respect," said Mr Mattocks, who worked in the melting shops from 1952 to 1980.

Another long-serving worker was retired engineer Tony Shinner, of Norton Road, Stourbridge, who was

at Round Oak from 1947 to 1981.

For the last 11 years, he was joined by his wife of 60 years, Betty, who was one of many women working in the offices.

"It was a happy place to work," she said.

"There was quite a lot of women working in the offices while then men were on the shop floor. I enjoyed my time there."

The reunion included an exhibition of old photographs and paintings of the Round Oak site as well as poetry readings paying homage to the site's importance in Brierley Hill.

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Courts will be closed in cost-cutting move

Celebrating Christmas traditions

CHRISTMAS traditions from around the globe were celebrated by youngsters at a Lower Gornal school.

Pupils at Roberts Primary put on their festive production called Christmas Around the World.

The play centred on the nativity story with a collection of Christmas celebrations from six different countries.

Through the show, parents and children experienced a taste of Christmas in Poland, Malawi, Australia, China, America and Ireland.

More than 400 people attended the three performances at the school.

Headteacher David Baker said: "It is a fantastic way of bringing the children together from different cultures and countries when the world has so many troubles."



Skye Elcock and Joshua Hickman, both seven, as Mary and Joseph with other pupils who have taken to the stage

HALESOWEN Magistrates' Court is to close as part of Government cuts, it has been confirmed.

Stourbridge and Kidderminster County Courts, which handle bankruptcy cases and civil matters, will also shut.

The courts are among the 93 magistrates' courts and 49 county courts to be closed across the country to save more than £41million.

Ministry of Justice said it aimed to re-deploy the 700 staff affected nationally but around 70 positions will go.

The closures are due to start next April. Dudley Council's community safety lead, Councillor Adrian Turner, said: "It is a shame to close the Halesowen court."

He added he hoped it would create efficiency at other courts.

Some county court cases in Kidderminster will be held at the magistrates' court following the shut-down.

Justice Minister Jonathan Djanogly said: "Access to justice is not just about access to buildings.

"It's about the type of justice delivered, decent facilities and efficient use of the system."

West Bromwich Magistrates' Court, Lombard Street West, will also close and work could be moved to Warley Magistrates' Court next month.

£250,000 facelift for electrical store

AN ELECTRICAL superstore at Dudley's Merry Hill Centre has undergone a £250,000 refurbishment which has created several new jobs.

Work at the Comet store was done overnight over the course of several weeks and has led to the introduction of more than 1,000sq ft of extra space.

The store was officially reopened on Saturday with a weekend of free family fun planned with colouring competitions, balloons and more.

Manager Steve Powell said, "We're confident that customers will notice a real difference when visiting the store and will love the improvements we have made."

Eight workers have been taken on for temporary positions over Christmas.

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Nearly 300 dogs taken off streets

Staff toast restaurant bar venture

A RESTAURANT and bar has opened at a former nightclub in Blackheath following a £30,000 makeover. Deja Vu's has opened at the site of a former nightclub, in Horner Way.

The building, which was leased by manager Carlon Brooks, has undergone three months of hard work to prepare it for opening.

He took over the lease about six months ago and improvements have included oak floors, new lighting, three new bars and a new kitchen. The new restaurant has also created seven full and part-time jobs.

Mr Brooks said: "We are reasonably priced for the area and we do a lot of traditional food. It is completely unrecognisable from when it was a night club."



Steve Pargeter with Carlon Brooks and staff Sarah Turner, Jason Allmark and Beckie Holloway

Trader warned

A MARKET trader from Halesowen has been warned he faces time behind bars for making and selling fake DVDs and computer games.

Adrian Kirton, of Abbey Road, sold the copied films and games for £2.50 to customers, depriving the entertainment industry of nearly £170,000, Wolverhampton Crown Court has been told at a previous hearing. The

42-year-old admitted to investigating officers after his arrest that he had made £6,662.50 in four months from separate transactions from his Cradley Heath market stall.

Kirton admitted a total of 33 charges involving breaches of trademark regulations, the court was told last week.

He will be sentenced at the crown court next year.

Top marks

STANDARDS of customer service at Dudley Council have been recognised nationally. Its directorate of finance, ICT and procurement has met the Government's customer service excellence standard. An assessor found staff at all levels had "a deep understanding and a commitment to customer service excellence".

Ring of approval

PRIORY Park Amateur Boxing, Dudley, has been given approval will build a 90ft long extension.

ALMOST 300 stray dogs have been picked up by Dudley Council this year it has been revealed.

The council took over responsibility for the collection of strays from the police in April 2008.

Figures released by the council show that between January and the start of December, the authority picked up 284 dogs. Providing the service cost just over £58,000 between April and October.

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "I have been trying to get the message across for the last couple of years, a dog is not just for Christmas."

"People need to realise when they purchase dogs it is expensive with things such as vet bills and feeding. I would urge people to really give it consideration and make sure they have the finances available."

Collected

Of the dogs collected, 122 were re-united with their owners. A small number are still waiting at kennels but the remainder have been re-homed.

Between April 2008 and April 2009 Dudley Council collected 500 stray dogs.

All strays picked up in the borough are taken to Rosedene Dog Rescue Centre, Walsall. Owners who collect their dogs from there must pay all kennelling costs plus a fine of £25. Dogs are kennelled for a week before being offered a new home.

Dog owners are legally required to ensure their dog wears a collar and tag with the name and address of the owner.

The council is not responsible for dogs belonging to people who have been taken into hospital or care, or dogs of evicted tenants.

Library to close for revamp

A DUDLEY library will shut for a month for a £20,000 revamp.

Cradley Library in Colley Lane will be closed between January 17 and February 14.

Work to repair wiring, and improve the lighting will be carried out, along with repainting and wall repairs.

In total the project will cost £19,650.

Dudley Council spokesman Chris Howes said: "Cradley library is well used, and this is an investment to improve the library. It will make a better environment for users."

People can return their books to any library in Dudley while the Cradley Library is shut.

The nearest ones are in Halesowen and Lye.

Cradley Library is open six days a week.

Invitation to meet police

THE Halesowen South neighbourhood team is inviting people to have their say at the last meeting of the year. The Police and Community Together session starts at 7pm on December 30, at Manor Way Primary School, Brier Mill Road.

Officers will discuss policing issues and what is being done to address them.

Those unable to attend but who have an issue should email details to dy.nhp.halesowen@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk, or contact 0345 113 5000, extension 7903 6450.

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Ring of approval

PRIORY Park Amateur Boxing, Dudley, has been given approval will build a 90ft long extension to house new fighting areas and equipment.

Health centre rent could reach £93m

Steve is surprise guest



Wolves legend Steve Bull thanks students Kirsty Hadley and Harry Thomas for choosing the Steve Bull Foundation

STUDENTS at a Dudley school were surprised when Wolves legend Steve Bull strolled into their end-of-term assembly.

The Tipton-born former England player visited High Arcal School in High Arcal Drive, Sedgley, to thank pupils from Attingham House for choosing the newly-launched Steve Bull Foundation as their charity of the year.

He also presented pupils from the house with certificates and awards.

He said: "To have High Arcal

School adopt my charity is fantastic, and I'm really grateful they asked me along today."

The school's community cohesion director Sukhjot Dhami said the visit had been a surprise for students.

"They were very excited when Steve Bull walked in," he said. "They were thrilled. It has really inspired them to help raise as much money as possible."

Students are hoping to beat last year's fundraising total of £10,000 with events such as an evening with Steve Bull in 2011.

THE rent for three new health centres in Dudley will come to £93.6 million during the 25-year lease – more than double the cost of building them.

Two health and social centres in Brierley Hill and Stourbridge, along with Ridgehill Centre, Stourbridge were built through a private public partnership called Dudley Infracare Lift for £40.1 million. Dudley Primary Care Trust pays an annual rent for the buildings and has a 25-year lease. The total rent for the properties is £ 3,747,108. If current rents remain, the PCT will have spent more than £93.6 million leasing the centres by the end of the term.

The PCT said the partnership helped finance project and can spread the cost.

Brierley Hill Health and Social Centre, Venture Way, cost £26.5 million to build. The annual rent is £1,872,570. Stourbridge Health and Social Centre, John Corbett Drive, cost £8.1 million and has an annual rent of £1,184,100. The rent for the £5.5 million Ridge Hill is £690,438. Rents will change according to inflation.

PCT chief executive Sarah Dugan said over five years three first-class facilities had been built providing exemplary standards.

"We do not have to make an initial large outlay but are able to spread the cost of the building over a number of years, rather like a mortgage payment," she said.

Colleges picked for training

DUDLEY and Stourbridge colleges have been chosen to lead the way on environmental technology training for the West Midlands. They have successfully bid for approval as a founder hub member of the National Skills Academy for Environmental Technologies.

Dudley principal Lowell Williams said: "Winning selection to join the prestigious

National Skills Academy is a tremendous achievement and a fabulous opportunity.

"Not only does it put our colleges at the centre of the green technology revolution but it means that the Black Country is once again leading technological development."

The colleges will provide a range of training.



The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Peter Miller, and the mayoress with Dudley Volunteer Award winners

Mayor celebrates with volunteers

SOME of the borough's most celebrated volunteers came together for a ceremony with the mayor.

Councillor Peter Miller hosted this year's winners from the Dudley Volunteer Awards, who enjoyed a festive tea party in the mayor's parlour last Wednesday.

Guests included Holly Hall couple John and Pamela Pestana, who won a Health and Wellbeing Award for raising £100,000 towards cancer research, and Ann Cook, the Community Hero Award winner who runs a dyslexia helpline from her Kingswinford home.

The afternoon also saw the presentation of the Safe and Sound Award for community safety to Netherton resident Martin Smith.

He was unable to attend the

original ceremony, by Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) in October, where more than 60 individuals and groups were recognised for their outstanding commitment.

On receiving his award from the mayor, Martin said: "It was such an unexpected honour but I was delighted to accept my award on behalf of a whole team of local people who are passionate about keeping our local area safe."

He was nominated for the time he dedicates to his local Neighbourhood Watch, the Bowling Green Tenants and Residents Association and Saltwells Youth Club.

He also volunteers for a neighbourhood helpline which gives housing and anti social behaviour advice to local residents.



Martin Smith, from Netherton, receives his Dudley Volunteer Award from the mayor

£250,000 facelift

AN ELECTRICAL superstore at Dudley's Merry Hill Centre has undergone a £250,000 refurbishment which has created several new jobs. Work at the Comet store was done overnight over the course of several weeks and has led to the introduction of more than 1,000sq ft of extra space. The store was officially reopened on Saturday with a weekend of free family fun planned with colouring competitions, balloons and more.

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Open Monday
27th December
to Thursday
30th December

thechronicle

Explosion leaves traders with loss

ALMOST 20 businesses in Dudley town centre are counting the cost of a day's lost trade after a violent explosion left them without power.

Shopkeepers said it was the latest in a string of problems. One trader called for urgent

action after five power cuts in the last two years. The blast at 7.45 am last Tuesday hurled a manhole cover through the air, smashing two windows at WH Smith.

The High Street, Stone Street and Wolverhampton Street were closed to traffic until 5pm. Businesses including Head

Rush Beauty Salon, Yorkshire Bank and WH Smith were forced to shut for either part or the whole of the day.

Amer Singh, owner of the Gala Coffee Lounge and Takeaway in Wolverhampton Street, said he lost £700 yesterday. Ryman's stationery in the High Street also said trade was "much lower" than usual.

Business owners say power cuts in the last two years have lasted for up to five hours. They say they have been told by engineers that the underground wiring system needs replacing.

Mr Singh says the 19 shops forced to close are the same group that are always affected by power cuts. He said he is "disgusted" and feels E-on should dig up the road and tackle the problem.

He reopened the next day but Mr Singh said he was "furious" to have lost a day's profits.

Urgent

He added: "I understand that it was a really bad explosion, but people don't realise that this is part of a long-running problem."

"We've had enough. They should just get it sorted."

Engineers from E-on dug up the pavement outside the WH Smith store to carry out urgent repairs on the cables in a bid to restore power to affected shops.

Investigations revealed the blast started in an underground electrical link box. E-on workers repaired the cable and made it safe, but investigations into what caused the fault are still under way. Power has been restored and the businesses re-opened.

E-on spokesman Scott Somerville said: "We know the problem was caused by a cable fault. What caused this is still being investigated and will be the subject of a full report."

You will go to the panto

CLASSIC fairytale Cinderella is being brought to life at Brierley Hill Civic Hall next month.

Members of the Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company take to the stage for their annual pantomime at the venue in Bank Street.

There will be a mixture of matinee and evening performances of the much-loved rags-to-riches tale on January 15, 16, 19, 20, 21 and 22. Publicity Officer Chris Psaras said rehearsals were in full swing.

In October the company staged the Full Monty and next month's pantomime follows the success of Mother Goose in January.

Tickets are available from the box office on 0845 658 8195. For further information about the company, which was founded in 1947, log on to www.bhmtc.co.uk



Ugly sisters Garry McWilliams and James Tromans, Steve Taylor as Buttons and Lucy Neshan as Cinderella in rehearsals



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thechronicle

Owner pays for dog mess

A DOG owner has been landed with a £100 bill for failing to clean up after his pet which left a mess on public land in Halesowen.

Gary Bradley, aged 25, was spotted by two police officers allowing his dog to foul on land in Hope Street, in April this year.

He was issued with a £50 on-the-spot fine, but failed to pay.

He admitted not clearing up after his dog and failing to pay the fixed penalty notice when he appeared before Halesowen magistrates court on December 2.

Bradley, of Swan Street, Netherton, was given a conditional discharge for a period of six months and ordered to pay £100 in costs.

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "This sends out a stark warning to people who do not clear up after their dogs."

"Prosecution is always a last resort, and we would hope people are responsible enough to help us keep this borough tidy."

Rent for health centres could hit £93m

THE rent for three new health centres in Dudley will come to £93.6 million during the 25-year lease – more than double the cost of building them.

Two health and social centres in Brierley Hill and Stourbridge, along with Ridgehill Centre, Stourbridge were built through a private public partnership called Dudley Infracare Lift for £40.1 million.

Dudley Primary Care Trust pays an annual rent for the buildings and has a 25-year lease.

The total rent for the properties is £3,747,108. If current rents remain, the PCT will have spent more than £93.6 million leasing the centres by the end of the term.

The PCT said the partnership helped finance project and can spread the cost. Brierley Hill Health and Social Centre, Venture Way, cost £26.5 million to build.

The annual rent is £1,872,570. Stourbridge Health and Social Centre, John Corbett Drive, cost £8.1 million and has an annual rent of £1,184,100.

The rent for the £5.5 million Ridge Hill is £690,438. Rents will change according to inflation.

PCT chief executive Sarah Dugan said over five years three first-class facilities had been built providing exemplary standards.

"We do not have to make an initial large outlay but are able to spread the cost of the building over a number of years, rather like a mortgage payment," she said.

Dudley

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Friday

[illegible]

BBC2 8.00 *Gooding*, 100 CBBC 8.25
BBC1 8.30 *News*, 10.00 *Planet Earth*, 10.30
News, 11.00 *Newsnight*, 11.30 *News*, 11.55
Wipe Out, 12.00 *What You Think You Are?*, 12.30
Loose Ends: The Drowning of George - *Trapped* Part 1, (P)
12.55 *Mrs. Nicholas Blakely* (2002), *Clown*
dancing, *Clowning Humans*, 1.15 *Play*, 1.30
8.00 *Escape to the Country*, 8.30 *The Wolf*,
Part 1, 8.55 *News*, 9.00 *Newsnight*, 9.30
1.00 *Part 1*, 1.15 *Jack Bauer* (2002), *Paradise*
Control, 1.30 *One of the Boys*, 1.55 *Part 1*, 2.00
5.00 *Goldend Pat's*, 2.30 100 *Years of the*
London Palladium, 3.00 *Cricket*, 4.00 *The*
Wrestler, 4.30 *News*, 5.00 *Newsnight*, 5.30
1.00 *Part 1*, 5.55 *Q&A*, (P), 6.00 *Close*

TV-14 (Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 14)
Starting The Very Good 8:30-9:30
 The **TV-14** rating is assigned to programs that may contain some material that is inappropriate for children under 14. Examples of material that may be included are: moderate language, some sexual material, and some violence.

[illegible]

Channel 5 5.1-5.2 Stereo **5.3-5.4 Stereo**
Week with Ned Marzari (P) **5.5-5.6** 5.1 Stereo **5.7-5.8** 5.1 Stereo
Tuxedo (P) **5.9-5.10** 5.1 Stereo **5.11-5.12** 5.1 Stereo **5.13-5.14** 5.1 Stereo
Channel 10 10.1-10.2 Stereo **10.3-10.4 Stereo**
Just a Girl (P) **10.5-10.6** 10.1 Stereo **10.7-10.8** 10.1 Stereo
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Just a Girl (P) **10.213-10.214** 10.1 Stereo **10.215-10.216** 10.1 Stereo
Just a Girl (P) **10.217-10.218** 10.1 Stereo</

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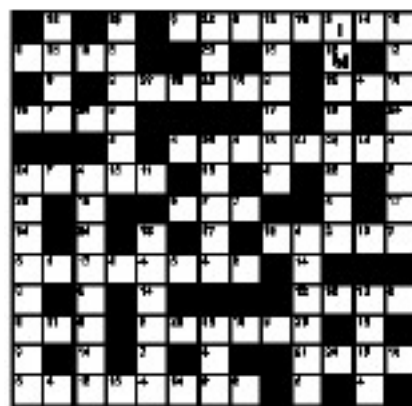
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Brain Gym

No.096

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WORDS: CIRCLED IN RED

1	L	C	O	Y	P	B	V	D	Z	U	T
N	K	S	Q	J	H	E	G	X	W	A	R



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic down - both fit the same grid.

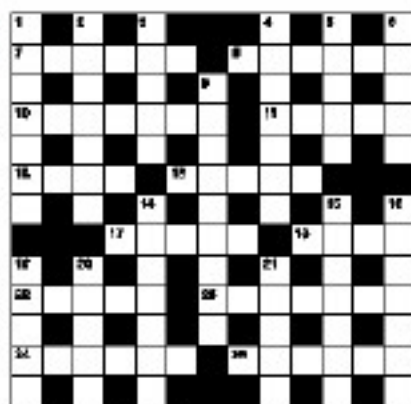
Cryptic Clues

Across

1. Used only first one (anagram) (4)
2. A hole for the vagina (4)
3. Famous Russian author (10)
4. A person who is called to start (4)
5. A small, round, round (4)
6. A small, round, round (4)
7. A small, round, round (4)
8. A small, round, round (4)
9. A small, round, round (4)
10. A small, round, round (4)
11. A small, round, round (4)
12. A small, round, round (4)
13. A small, round, round (4)

Down

1. A small, round, round (4)
2. A small, round, round (4)
3. A small, round, round (4)
4. A small, round, round (4)
5. A small, round, round (4)
6. A small, round, round (4)
7. A small, round, round (4)
8. A small, round, round (4)
9. A small, round, round (4)
10. A small, round, round (4)
11. A small, round, round (4)
12. A small, round, round (4)
13. A small, round, round (4)



LAST WORDS: CIRCLED IN RED
DOWN: 1. A small, round, round (4); 2. A small, round, round (4); 3. A small, round, round (4); 4. A small, round, round (4); 5. A small, round, round (4); 6. A small, round, round (4); 7. A small, round, round (4); 8. A small, round, round (4); 9. A small, round, round (4); 10. A small, round, round (4); 11. A small, round, round (4); 12. A small, round, round (4); 13. A small, round, round (4).

Sudoku

Fill in the grid with numbers 1-9, every row, every column, and each of the 3x3 boxes must contain all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WORDS: CIRCLED IN RED
DOWN: 1. A small, round, round (4); 2. A small, round, round (4); 3. A small, round, round (4); 4. A small, round, round (4); 5. A small, round, round (4); 6. A small, round, round (4); 7. A small, round, round (4); 8. A small, round, round (4); 9. A small, round, round (4); 10. A small, round, round (4); 11. A small, round, round (4); 12. A small, round, round (4); 13. A small, round, round (4).

8		4		3				
6		1					4	
	3	6	8			7		
3	7					6	5	
		8	7		2	9		
9	1						2	
	5			2	8	3		
8	9			1			6	
	1	3		9				

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



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16184 CORSA 1.4i DERAIL 5-yr Brd Skipline	£7,790	£7,490	£300
16185 CORSA 1.2 CLUB 3-dr, Silver Lightning	£6,290	£6,490	£100
16186 CORSA 1.4i DERAIL 5-yr, X-Blue	£6,490	£6,290	£200
16187 CORSA 1.2i 50L AC, 5-yr, Nite Blue	£6,290	£6,090	£200

ASTRA			
16188 ASTRA 1.3i DERAIL 5-yr, Paracoth	£7,790	£7,290	£500
16189 ASTRA 1.4i CLUB 5-yr, Silver Lightning	£7,790	£8,290	£500
16190 ASTRA 1.3i 50L 5-yr, Paracoth	£7,490	£6,990	£500
16191 ASTRA 1.3i XP SPORT HATCH 3-dr, Technical Grey	£11,990	£10,490	£1,500
16192 ASTRA 1.4i 50L 5-yr, Sovereign Silver	£12,990	£9,990	£3,000
16193 ASTRA 1.4i LIFE ESTATE, Paracoth	£5,990	£4,990	£1,000
16194 NEW ASTRA 1.4i 5-yr, Black Sapphire	£10,990	£10,490	£500
16195 NEW ASTRA 1.4i EXCLUSIVE 5-yr, Blue	£11,290	£10,090	£1,200

VECTRA			
16196 VECTRA 1.3i LIFE 5-yr, Str Silver	£7,790	£6,290	£1,500
16197 VECTRA 1.3i CO 115i 5-yr, Silver Lightning	£10,490	£8,990	£1,500
16198 VECTRA 1.3i CO 115i 5-yr, Silver Lightning	£7,290	£6,290	£1,000
16199 VECTRA 1.3i CO 115i 5-yr, EXCLUSIVE ESTATE, Black Sapphire	£7,290	£6,290	£1,000

INSIGNIA			
16200 INSIGNIA 1.3i EXCLUSIVE 5-yr, Technical Grey	£12,990	£10,990	£2,000
16201 INSIGNIA 1.3i EXCLUSIVE 5-yr, Sovereign Silver	£12,990	£10,990	£2,000

MPV + 4x4			
16202 INTERVA 1.4i CLUB, Silver Lightning	£6,490	£7,990	£1,500
16203 INTERVA 1.4i LIFE, Blue	£6,290	£6,990	£700
16204 ZAFIRA 1.3i EXCLUSIVE, Nite Blue	£12,990	£10,990	£2,000
16205 ASTRRA 1.3i CO 115i 5-yr, AUTOMATIC, Black Sapphire	£14,990	£13,790	£1,200
16206 INTERVA 1.4i BREEZE, Silver Lightning	£6,490	£6,290	£200

CHEVROLET			
16207 CHEVROLET MATIZ 1.1i SE, Choice of Colours	£7,490	£6,490	£1,000
16208 MATIZ 1.4i SE, Moroccan Blue	£7,790	£6,990	£800
16209 MATIZ 1.3i SE, Blue	£6,490	£6,290	£200
16210 MATIZ 1.1i SE, Silver	£6,490	£6,290	£200
16211 KALOS 1.4i 3-dr, Black	£6,490	£6,290	£200
16212 CAPTIVA 1.8i 4x4, Silver	£11,990	£10,490	£1,500
16213 CAPTIVA 1.8i 4x4, Silver	£11,990	£10,490	£1,500
16214 LACETTI 1.6i EXCLUSIVE, Green, Metallic	£6,290	£6,290	£0

JAPANESE			
16215 MAZDA 1115 1.1i CONVERTIBLE, Black	£6,490	£6,290	£200
16216 MAZDA 6 1.8i SPORT, Black	£6,490	£7,290	£800
16217 TOYOTA AURIS 1.6i SPORT 3-dr, Silver	£6,490	£6,290	£200

PEUGEOT			
16218 216 LHD SPORT 3-dr, Grey/Metallic	£6,290	£6,290	£0

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Christmas Eve	8.30am - 3.00pm
Christmas Day, Boxing Day & 27th	CLOSED
December 28th (SALES ONLY)	10.30am - 4.00pm
December 29th & 30th	8.30am - 5.30pm
New Year's Eve	8.30am - 4.00pm

New Year's Day	11.00am - 6.00pm
Sunday 2nd Jan	10.30am - 4.00pm
Monday 3rd Jan	10.30am - 4.00pm

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CHRONICLE MOTORING

Special edition which aims to be the Envy of city cars

PEUGEOT'S 107 small city car has reached a big milestone – with half a million now produced since its launch in 2005.

The car was an immediate success and continues to remain popular throughout Europe – despite the recession.

In fact, production volumes of the 107 have continued to increase year on year. In 2006, the first full year of production, 101,700 vehicles were produced, rising to 104,600 in 2007, then 108,200 in 2008 and 116,100 last year.

The compact, stylish, practical and efficient 107 is now sold in almost 60 countries worldwide but Europe is its principal market with France accounting for a quarter of all sales and the UK a sixth.

The 107 makes the most of its interior space and belies its tiny wheelbase to provide a vehicle capable of transporting four people in comfort.

And a new member of the 107 family will be available this month. The 107 Envy special edition, available in three and five-door versions, is priced from £9,595 and offers more kit as standard.

Stability

It's safe and easy to drive, with ABS, electronic brake force distribution (EBFD), corner stability control (CSC), four airbags and power steering.

It is easy to live with, offering remote control central locking, electric front windows, internally adjustable door mirrors, a height adjustable steering column and a radio/CD player with MP3 socket. It is practical, with a 50/50 split

folding rear seat and two ISOFIX child safety seat mountings.

It also packs a visual punch, with body colour exterior door mirrors, black side trims, dark tinted rear windows, 14-inch alloy wheels and air-conditioning.

There are also a couple of extra options on the Envy designed to make it more attractive to younger buyers.


The 107 comes with Peugeot's Just Add Fuel personal finance package, meaning buyers can drive it away with three years' fully comprehensive insurance (as long as they are aged 21), three years' warranty, three years' servicing and three years' roadside assistance, all for a fixed monthly payment of £189. There's no vehicle excise tax to pay.

Finally, all Peugeot 107 models ordered up to the end of the year also come with a free Nokia 5230 smartphone with inbuilt satellite navigation with free future updates and an in-car mounting kit.









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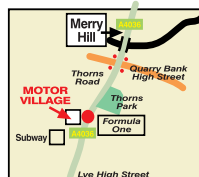
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LINDA 70's, likes theatre, dancing, seeks nice gent for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355765

Hi I'm Emma, a 31yr old smiley lady, I love fun and am looking for excitement with a fun male, I want to make you happy, age unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355765

FEMININE lady, attractive, intelligent and slim seeks genuine strong minded male; I have so many interests please call to hear them. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355763

FRIENDLY outgoing, sociable lady, 34 but looks mid 20's (its true) WLTm adventurous male 18 - 65, I'm open to most ageings/hits, happy to try most things. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355761

SLIM attractive, self sufficient lady, 44, seeks special male 35-50 to share evening/night, theatre, possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 351813

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male N/S for love/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363428

ATTRACTIVE female, 45, slim, affectionate, intelligent, seeks honest, caring male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 301001

FEMALE kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 350397

ATTRACTIVE tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349211

53YR old female, young at heart, likes cinema, theatre, meals out, pubs, walks, holidays, seeks genuine, trustworthy male, 45-56. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339275

TALL slim, attractive brown eyed brunet, 42, many interests, seeks fun loving cultured male to spend quality time with. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355253

ATTRACTIVE single mum, 40, outgoing, seeks similar guy for good times, possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348919

OPEN friendly Christian female, professional, seeks kind, caring, Christian male for friendship and more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 348867

PRINCE wanted, must be fit, loving, caring and honest, no old frogs. I am 30's and attractive. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337455

WEST Midlands female, 4, attractive, slim, divorced, N/S, seeks slim, clean, attractive male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 343735

LISA 32, size 8, seeks male, 32-48 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 346713

HELEN 38, one child, blonde hair, 5ft 6ins, slim, attractive, likes swimming, dancing, seeks male, 43-53 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331399

MICHELLE black British, 30, curvy, slim, size 12, 5ft 5ins, sociable, friendly, understanding, loving, seeks male, 30-36 to enjoy romantic nights. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317945

LADY N/S, car owner, seeks lonely, retired gent with old fashioned values for friendship/days out and holidays. Stourbridge. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 354183

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377432

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, caring, genuine male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349651

SINGLE mum, non drinker, seeks male for nights out, meals and lots of fun. Dudley. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 353085

ATTRACTIVE nurse, 48, 5ft 6ins, cinema, walks, country, WLTm attractive male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339373

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339373

BLONDE attractive, educated lady, tall, slim, curvy, 47, seeks tall, professional, 40-52. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362478

PRETTY size 8 female, 19, seeks male to support and treat her like a Princess. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 335019

COUNTRY loving female, black hair, green eyes, GSOH, likes countryside, cosy nights in, music, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 333797

LADY 50, slim, GSOH, likes cooking, nights out, seeks genuine guy, 50-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331813

STEFF dark hair, single mum, small, likes cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male, 30-40 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 333173

KAREN 47, 5ft 9ins, civil servant, attractive, down to earth, likes drink, dancing, socialising, home life, seeks tall, professional male N/S for love/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 342439

WHITE curvy female 33, GSOH, likes nice things in life, seeks gent 43-57. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 325939

BLACK female, 38, seeks male, 30-50, adventurous, and fun loving, daring and caring. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331301

IRENE 72, N/S, active, 5ft 2ins, slim, blonde hair, seeks similar male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 333101

EASYGOING loving day dreamer, curvy, long brown hair, seeks similar kind, loving male to share fun, friendship and good conversations. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355249

BLONDE female, 32, fun loving, likes letting her hair down and kicking her heels up, caring, considerate, seeks likeminded male, 25-40. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 332417

ATTRACTIVE widow, 5ft 8ins, OHAC, GSOH, likes meals out, holidays, WLTm gentle, 70-80 for friendship and happiness. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 330461

YOUNG bubbly black lady, likes winning/dining, seeks mature male for friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 328669

SUE young thinking 54yr old female, varied interests, likes music, walks, cinema, pets, football, seeks N/S, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 328177

RITA 32, size 16-18, 5ft 4ins, seeks male 30-50 for friendship and maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 324709

STUNNING Caribbean black beauty, 33, size 10, 5ft 9ins, intelligent, caring, classy, seeks generous, solvent, romantic, male, 33-45 for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 326751

SLIM attractive 44yr old female, N/S, no ties, likes travel, nights out, seeks male, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 341491

ATTRACTIVE 40yr old female, brunette, slim, trendy, no ties, high morals, seeks slim male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316619

YOUNG looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331515

BEAUTIFUL slim brunette, blue eyes, good figure, loves to dance, WLTm someone nice to share good times with, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355251

WIDOWED female, 65, likes socialising, holidays, meals out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339765

PETITE dark haired lady, 43, size 10, seeks considerate, N/S male, 25-50 for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334827

60YR old lady, young at heart, divorced, medium build, likes kisses, cuddles, seeks tall, 50-61 with GSOH and similar likes. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334827

WEST Bromwich female, late 50's, modern, romantic, easygoing, seeks active, genuine male, 45-60 for LTR. Driver preferred. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 336759

DO you know what women want? 40yr converse lady needs spoiling and lots of love by attractive male, 45-55. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327573

BOSSY lady, 44, dark hair, fit, slim, good, attractive, seeks male, 40-50 who will do as he is told. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 326119

GENUINE easygoing lady, 80's, N/S, seeks likeminded gent, 65-75 for friendship and company. Must be genuine. West Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 325719

60YR young lady, slim, 5ft 4ins, young, outgoing, GSOH, honest, caring, loves travel, nights in/out, music, theatre, seeks honest, caring male, 58-68 for love and laughter. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349468

CAROLE 55, loving, caring, GSOH, likes nights in/out, animals, N/S, seeks caring male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316793

SINGLE attractive young female, fun loving fit and fruity seeks likeminded older male for good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363432

DOWN to earth female, 45, seeks gent, 45-55 to sparkle back into life, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349468

FRIENDLY black female, attractive, 46, single mum, professional, seeks attractive, solvent, trendy, professional, genuine male for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349865

72YR old widower, smart, likes travel, conversation, dancing, cooking, missing that special man in her life who is easygoing and fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 349265

PROFESSIONAL lady, young 50, fashionable, pleasant, kind, likes countryside, outdoors, holidays, family life, seeks pleasant, committed Christian male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316403

ATTRACTIVE female, 42, slim, brunette, no ties, N/S, likes travel, nights out, weekends away, seeks slim male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 327579

MAUREN seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334695

LADY 76, N/S, caring, respectable, WLTm gentleman, 70-76 for outings, holidays, day trips and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 340021

BLACK beauty, 29, 5ft 4ins, 14st, red, 16, single mum, likes cooking, reading, travel, socialising, seeks male with similar interests. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 308031

ATTRACTIVE petite female, 34, single mum, likes nights in/out, cinema, sea-side, days out, seeks male with similar interests. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317151

SYLVIE 59, N/S, long blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, slim, OHAC, likes cycling, walks, keep fit, horse riding, holidays, theatre, films, meals out, GSOH, seeks male for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 321149

ATTRACTIVE glamorous, black female, young 44, seeks male for friendship/dating and LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 339799

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 329319

CURVY intelligent young widow, 58, blue eyes, short dark hair, lovely figure, seeks tall lively male to enjoy life's pleasures with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 335429

ATTRACTIVE slim female, 64, divorced, truthful, 5ft 3ins, modern, young at heart, seeks genuine, nice looking, clean male, 57-67. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 336315

ATTRACTIVE black female, seeks genuine male, 28-40 to make me last and have fun. Must have GSOH. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317387

YOUNG 72yr old female, slim, active, attractive, likes walks, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 324441

SARAH 20, attractive, brown hair/eyes, nice personality, like pets, seeks similar male, handsome for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317925

LADY 60's, seeks male for friendship, holidays and socialising. Car driver with ability to tow a caravan a bonus. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 324265

PETITE blonde lady, 56, OHAC, likes countryside, nights out, dancing, cinema, theatre, holidays, seeks gent with similar interests. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 303395

LOVELY blonde widow with no ties, looking for love and romance again with lots of TLC, WLTm similar man. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355247

SHEILA 5ft 4ins, blue eyes, red hair, 16st, 53, likes music, meals out, country walks, seeks male, 45-54 who is sincere, fun loving for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 321455

ROSANNA 41, caring, loving, devoted, loyal, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 329221

ATTRACTIVE divorced 55yr old female, size 10, 5ft 6ins, blue eyes, long dark hair, seeks tall, medium build, athletic guy to put the sparkle back into life. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 318203

LOUISE seeks nice male in her Christmas stocking. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 321491

FEMALE medium build, seeks nice N/S male, 40-42 for fun and friendship, maybe more. West Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337985

GENUINE West Bromwich female, smoker, many interests, seeks fit male, driver preferred for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 328837

VAL 35, single mum, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334695

LADY 67, N/S, caring, likes sports, seeks male, 60 plus for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 328829

TALL slim, young at heart 48yr old female, seeks tall, kind hearted male for nights out and companionship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 323863

BLACK beauty, 29, 5ft 4ins, 14st, red, 16, single mum, likes cooking, reading, travel, socialising, seeks male with similar interests. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 308031

ATTRACTIVE petite female, 34, single mum, likes nights in/out, cinema, sea-side, days out, seeks male with similar interests. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317151

SYLVIE 59, N/S, long blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, slim, OHAC, likes cycling, walks, keep fit, horse riding, holidays, theatre, films, meals out, GSOH, seeks male for friendship/LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 321149

ATTRACTIVE black female, seeks genuine male, 28-40 to make me last and have fun. Must have GSOH. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317387

YOUNG 72yr old female, slim, active, attractive, likes walks, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 324441

SARAH 20, attractive, brown hair/eyes, nice personality, like pets, seeks similar male, handsome for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317925

LADY 60's, seeks male for friendship, holidays and socialising. Car driver with ability to tow a caravan a bonus. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 324265

PETITE blonde lady, 56, OHAC, likes countryside, nights out, dancing, cinema, theatre, holidays, seeks gent with similar interests. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 303395

LOVELY blonde widow with no ties, looking for love and romance again with lots of TLC, WLTm similar man. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355247

SINGLE mum, likes walks, nights in/out, seeks fun loving male with similar interests. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 320937

ATTRACTIVE divorced, single mum, 38, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, green eyes, seeks slim, honest, attractive, dark haired male, 35-43 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 305797

ATTRACTIVE female, medium build, dark hair, hazel eyes, seeks male, 20-30 for relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 315415

45YR old natural red head, likes rock music, seeks tall, dark, genuine, honest male for possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 314291

ATTRACTIVE black female, 33, likes music, cooking, cinema, seeks tall, genuine male, 30-40 for LTR. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 315413

HAYDA widow, black hair, green eyes, likes countryside, pubs, nights in, GSOH, seeks country loving male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 320583

TWO attractive ladies who like to dance and socialise, need two smart partners. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 319899

DAWN 45, 5ft 2ins, average looks, easygoing, seeks male for loving relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 317865

WIDOW black lady, green eyes, likes countryside, pubs, music, nights in, N/S, intelligent. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 332321

ATTRACTIVE widow, 5ft 7ins, genuine, sincere, OHAC, GSOH, likes dining out, seeks lonely, caring gent for friendship and happiness. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 331049

FEMALE likes socialising, nights out, seeks attractive male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 336477

DARK haired lady, 45, seeks N/S male, 40-50 for friendship and nights out, cinema, WLTm. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 330549

CLARE 56, likes theatre, animals, films, seeks caring male with GSOH, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367984

ATTRACTIVE widow, 5ft 7ins, slim, GSOH, OHAC, likes holidays, days out, seeks gent for friendship and happiness. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 330037

FEMALE 53, divorced, N/S, likes theatre, music, seeks honest, caring, loving male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 328837

GENUINE caring widow, 64, attractive, likes reading, holidays, meals out, seeks genuine N/S male, 60-68. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 378566

GLYNIS 47, slim, brown hair/eyes, trustworthy, likes cinema, nights out, cinema, wine/dining, seeks male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 323739

SUSIE 35, 3 children, likes reading, walks, dancing, cooking, seeks male/sing/dad, 35-45 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 333365

LEONIE 42, wheelchair user, have cerebral palsy, 3 children, likes theatre, meals out, seeks honest, genuine, sincere male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 316865

AVERAGE looking lady, 59, N/S, likes animals, reading, cosy nights in, seeks medium-large built gent, 50-65 for possible relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 330369

FEMALE 40's, 5ft 6ins, brunette, seeks nice, caring, loving, fun gent, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 329019

SLIM fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who will be the car to my heart. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367066

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359238

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Gently does it as Williams eyes his return

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers left-back Mike Williams has admitted his 2010 may be over after surgery on his injured foot.

Williams had an operation to remove a growth on his left foot, ruling him out of the recent FA Trophy defeat at his

former club Wrexham.

The stitches are due to come out today, just three days before Harriers go to Forest Green on Boxing Day.

The 24-year-old cannot train until then, which ruled him out of last Saturday's visit of Kettering which was postponed in

any event.

It also means he could possibly miss both festive matches, Forest Green away and Newport at home on December 28 – assuming both beat the weather.

But Williams is hoping to be fully fit by the time of the Forest Green return

game at Aggborough on New Year's Day.

He said: "I would imagine that the New Year's Day game is a more realistic target to look at."

"But I am not going to say I can't make a game until I have had the bandage off and the stitches taken out."

"Boxing Day could be a step too far," he conceded.

"I have to stay at home with my feet up for two weeks so the injury will heal."

I would rather make sure I am right for the rest of the season, instead of coming back too early," he added.



The impressive new stand at Warwickshire's home is taking shape



How the new stand looks from outside the Edgbaston ground

EDGBASTON IS SET TO BOWL 'EM OVER

CRICKET FANS can see the £30million expansion of Warwickshire's Edgbaston ground, increasing capacity to 25,000, continuing apace.

The playing surface, grown to Warwickshire's specification in a field in Lincolnshire, has been relaid with a new drainage system and permanent floodlights fitted.

The framework for the new stand, which sits between the Eric Hollies Stand and the Priory Stand is also nearly finished.

And bosses revealed the naming rights for the new stand would be established in the new year.

Club chief executive Colin Povey said: "We're just coming onto that stage of the development. We will be starting to approach companies in the new year."

The curved shell of the building, which will eventually be coated in silver-coloured aluminium panels, is nearly finished and will expand the seating and media facilities, bringing the stadium into line with the iconic press box at Lord's.

The finished work will feature five new floodlights, offices, shops and apartments at the site. It is set for completion in time for England's Test match against India on August 10 next year.

Phil Macdonald, project director at Edgbaston, said: "The new facilities will be like rugby and football grounds with a covered concourse between the new stand and the Eric Hollies Stand."

Atmosphere

"The new stadium will have the best facilities for media in England with parts of the third and fourth floor for broadcast and print media inside the steel box design which will sit on top of the new stand."

The work will give Warwickshire the best chance to compete for international matches.

Povey added: "The expansions puts us in a very strong position. We will have the largest capacity for a ground outside London and more than Trent Bridge's 17,000 in Nottingham and the 15,000 capacity at Cardiff, with whom we're effectively competing. It should keep Edgbaston on that main roster of Test grounds."

The expansion will not harm the atmosphere Edgbaston has developed in recent years, the most vocal support England receive on home soil. Mr Povey added: "England win here more often than anywhere else, the players love the noise and the crowds love the fun atmosphere so it's a win-win."

As the project nears completion, lifts stairs and seats will be installed. Alongside the stadium work, the ground is being fitted with modern drainage. Permanent floodlights will mean less light spillage from day/night matches for nearby residents and make taking high catches easier for fielders as the bulbs used produce less glare.

The redevelopment is expected to guarantee a place for international cricket in Birmingham and an Ashes match in 2013. It will feature an "unusually shaped" square structure to house a banqueting suite. The former Calthorpe stand, the old pavilion and the old indoor cricket school were all bulldozed. The stadium has been reconfigured alongside the demolition and still has a capacity of 17,000.



Warwickshire chief executive Colin Povey watches the redevelopment work at Edgbaston taking place

Reinforcements for the Robins as Perks and Kirkham swell team

DUDLEY TOWN have added former Bustleholme joint-manager Neil Perks onto their management team following his design to resign from the Tipton-based club.

Perks has been joined at the Dell Stadium by former Dudley under-18s coach Nigel Kirkham, with the duo joining up with current Robins boss Steve Hinks.

Perks, who took the Bustle-

holme hot seat with Karl Dolman in the summer of 2009, oversaw a rapid transformation for the Bs who rose from basement dwellers to genuine title contenders within 18 months.

He will be joining a Dudley Town side that lies midway up the West Midlands Premier Division table after a mixed bag of results in the opening half of the season.

Kirkham needs little introduction to Robins supporters

after a period in charge of the club's successful under-18s side that nurtured current first team player Alex Perry as well as Halesowen Town's England Colleges midfielder Conor Gater.

Chairman Stephen Austin believes Perks and Kirkham's arrival onto Hinks' management team will be the break the club is looking for.

"Steve has been looking for additional support from those with local Dudley knowledge

and experience," he said.

"I am certain this is what Neil and Nigel will provide the club and am sure this will have a positive effect."

"We would all like to welcome the duo to Dudley Town Football Club," he added.

Hinks welcomes the reinforcements after a run of torrid luck with his coaching staff.

Player-coach Kevin Thompson left the club for a similar role with Evo-Stik Premier

Division club Chasetown in September before assistant manager Richard Smith had to leave due to work commitments in November.

Dudley have been without a game since November 20 and now face a wait until January 8 to get their season under way again.

Hinks has used the time to bolster his squad with the addition of highly rated duo Ricky Dudley and Jemall Pennock.

Six-goal Tipton hammer out title warning

Tipton Town 6
Highgate United 0

TIPTON climbed into second place in the Baker-Joiner Midland Football Alliance following an impressive return to action.

After a three-week weather enforced absence, they hit top form on December 15 and went on to their biggest win of the season.

Tipton, who gave a debut to recent signing Alex Cowley, started brightly with Danny Bragoli linking up with Jozsef Jakab who saw his shot saved by Shaun Hoccum.

Dave Bate then tested the Highgate keeper from distance with a well-struck shot but found him equal to the task.

The pressure on the visitors' goal continued as Ricky Baker fired over the top.

Drive

Tipton's efforts were rewarded when Bate opened the scoring with a superbly struck drive that flew into the top corner.

Bragoli was denied a goal when Hoccum saved and Jakab headed wide from Ross Brown's cross as Tipton pushed for a second.

At the other end, keeper Matt Sargeant was called into action to deny the pacy Elroy Bennett as Highgate threatened.

Tipton added the crucial second goal five minutes before the break. Bragoli's cross headed home by Eric Bowen from six yards out.

The tempo was maintained after the interval with Tipton netting twice in the opening eight minutes of the second half.

Substitute

Jakab set up Bate to net his second and three minutes later Jakab himself got his name on the scoresheet as Tipton guaranteed the destination of the points.

Cowley fired just over before Jakab added his second, and his 14th of the season, when he headed home Bowen's cross.

Tipton weren't finished and added a sixth goal as the match wound into its final stages.

It came when substitute Ryan Mosedale cut inside his man and beat Hoccum with a well-placed finish to cap off a great night for the home side.

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